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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, who knows us as we really are and whose grace gives us the courage to change and become more of what we were meant to be, we thank You for this quiet moment in which no secrets are hidden from You, and our deepest longings are revealed. As we begin this new work week, wash out of our minds any negative thinking or any emotions resistant to Your will. Help us to form and hold the picture of ourselves as servant-leaders filled with Your power, patriotism, and enthusiasm. May we completely be absorbed with what is best for our Nation and work together with a cooperative attitude. Free us of the pride that thinks too much about the perpendicular pronoun. We want to be motivators rather than manipulators of the people around us. May this be a great day of progress for the work of the Senate. To that end, bless the Senators with Your grace and goodness. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

Mr. HAGEL. I thank the Chair.

SCHEDULE

Mr. HAGEL. This morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 1 p.m. Following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of S. 1059, the Department of Defense authorization bill. Amendments to the defense authorization bill are expected to be offered during today's session of the Senate. If votes are

ordered with respect to S. 1059, those votes will be stacked to occur at 5:30 p.m. this evening. As always, Senators will be notified as votes are ordered.

It is the intention of the leader to complete action on the defense authorization bill this week as well as the defense appropriations bill. Therefore, Senators can expect votes into the evening throughout the week.

I thank my colleagues for their attention and cooperation.

Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 1 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes. The time until 12 noon shall be under the control of the Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, or his designee, with 20 minutes of the time to be under the control of the Senator from North Dakota, Mr. CONRAD.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I designate myself to control approximately 10 minutes of time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Chair.

WORK INCENTIVES IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to speak for a few moments today about a bill that many Senators, some 70 of us, believe will improve the lives of millions of disabled Americans. The Work Incentives Improvement Act would allow disabled adults to enter the workforce without placing their Medicaid or Medicare benefits at risk. I particularly thank Senators KENNEDY, JEFFORDS, MOYNIHAN, and ROTH for their outstanding leadership in crafting this legislation. I am very proud to be a cosponsor.

Today, more than 8 million working-age adults receive disability payments from the Federal Government for conditions that range from paralysis to multiple sclerosis. A recent Harris poll showed that 72 percent of these disabled people would really like to work, but disabled Americans face a terrible Catch-22. The Federal Medicaid program won't cover people who continue to work and remain disabled. So if a disabled adult earns more than \$500 a month, he or she loses their Medicaid. That is the rub.

The eligibility criteria for Medicaid benefits have had a devastating effect on disabled Americans. The Medicaid program equates having a disability with being poor and unable to work, furthering inaccurate stereotypes about disability. To make things worse, the Medicaid program ensures that disabled people who do work end up having to shoulder the cost of their care by themselves.

For all but the best-off disabled Americans, these costs are prohibitive. People with serious medical conditions can't pay the out-of-pocket costs of their medical treatment. These costs can run into the tens of thousands of dollars each year. In other words, if a disabled American does have a job, the minute that disabled American earns more than \$500 a month, they fall off a cliff and they lose their Medicaid or

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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